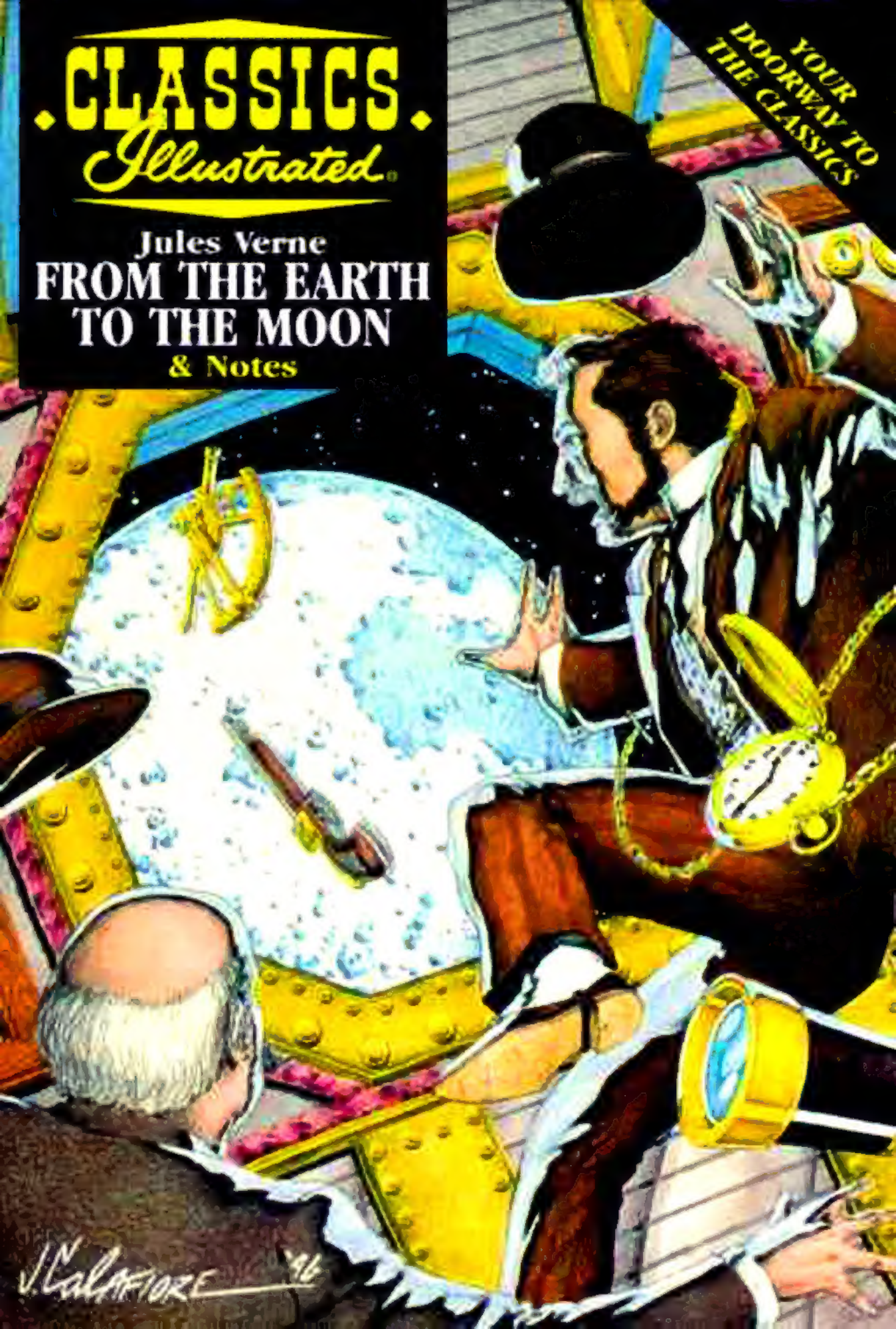
CLASSICS Illustrated

YOUR DOORWAY TO THE CLASSICS

Jules Verne

FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

& Notes



From The Earth To The Moon

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STUDY GUIDE

FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

By Jules Verne

WITH THE PASSING OF THE YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR HAD ENDED AND THE GREAT CANNONS OF THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH WERE SILENCED, PUBLIC INTEREST IN ARTILLERY SUFFERED A SHARP DECLINE. ON OCTOBER 2, 18--, AT BALTIMORE'S FAMOUS GUN CLUB, THREE OF THE 1,833 ACTIVE MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE SITUATION...
WHAT A MISERABLE EXISTENCE WE LEAD. WHEN AGAIN SHALL THE GUNS AROUSE US IN THE MORNING WITH THEIR DELIGHTFUL REPORTS?
THOSE DAYS ARE GONE BY.
AYE! AND NOT A SIGN OF WAR! PEACE, PEACE EVERYWHERE AND NOT ONE FIELD OF BATTLE WHERE A GOOD ARTILLERY-MAN CAN TEST HIS THEORIES ON GUNPOWDER, SIZE OF CANNONBALL, LENGTH OF BARREL, AND ALL THE OTHER IMPORTANT IDEAS SO DEAR TO AN ARTILLERY-MAN'S HEART.
MATTERS WERE IN THIS UNFORTUNATE CONDITION AND THE CLUB SEEMED ABOUT READY TO DISSOLVE INTO NOTHING, WHEN AN UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCE OCCURRED TO PUT NEW LIFE INTO ITS MEMBERS.
BALTIMORE, OCT. 3.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUN CLUB HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES THAT, AT THE MEETING OF THE 5TH INSTANT, HE WILL BRING BEFORE THEM A COMMUNICATION OF AN EXTREMELY INTERESTING NATURE. HE REQUESTS, THEREFORE, THAT THEY WILL MAKE IT CONVENIENT TO ATTEND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESENT INVITATION.
VERY CORDIALLY,
IMPEY BARBICANE, P.G.C.

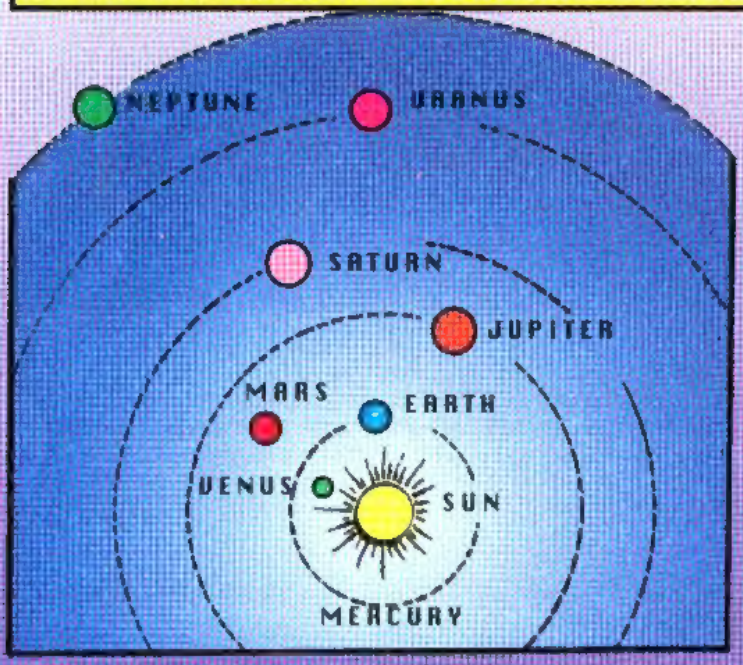
TWO EVENINGS LATER, A GREAT CROWD GATHERED AT BALTIMORE'S GUN CLUB HALL.
WHAT HAVE YOU UP YOUR SLEEVE, BARBICANE?
YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE DETAILS AS SOON AS OUR ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERSHIP PERMITS ME TO MAKE MYSELF HEARD.
AFTER THE CROWD HAD BEEN QUIETED...
RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO THE MYSTERIES OF THE MOON. AS YET, THE MOON IS A LAND UNKNOWN! EXCEPT FOR A STRAINED VIEW THROUGH THE ASTRONOMER'S GLASS, OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOON HAS BEEN LIMITED BY OUR FAILURE TO PIERCE THE VAST DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE MOON. HOWEVER, WITH YOUR COOPERATION, I HAVE A PLAN TO CHALLENGE THAT DISTANCE.
YOU ARE ALL WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF IMPROVED GUN POWDER, AND THE HIGHLY SCIENTIFIC CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT GUNS DESIGNED TO CARRY ARTILLERY BALLS FOR VAST DISTANCES...I PROPOSE WE BUILD THE GREATEST GUN IN THE HISTORY OF GUNNERY! I PROPOSE THAT WE THEN AIM IT INTO THE UPPER HEAVENS! AND I FURTHER PROPOSE THAT WE TAKE THE MOON FOR OUR TARGET!
WE'RE WITH YOU! WE'RE WITH YOU!
BARBICANE'S SPEECH ROCKED THE HALL.
WHEN CAN WE HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS MAGNIFICENT IDEA?
I WILL SUPPLY COMPLETE DETAILS TOMORROW. MEET ME THEN AT THE GUN CLUB, THREE O'CLOCK SHARP!

THE NEXT AFTERNOON, BARBICANE EXPLAINED TO HIS CLOSE FRIENDS AT THE GUN CLUB...

BEFORE FIRING, THE VETERAN ARTILLERY-MAN MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT HIS TARGET. ONLY A FEW GENERATIONS AGO, OUR ANCESTORS KNEW PRECIOUS LITTLE ABOUT THE MOON, CALLING IT "QUEEN OF THE NIGHT". TODAY, WE KNOW THAT THE MOON ACTUALLY IS A REFLECTOR OF THE SUN'S POWERFUL LIGHT RAYS.

...EIGHT HEAVENLY BODIES REVOLVE IN A GREAT CIRCLE AROUND THE SUN. THEY ARE URANUS, SATURN, JUPITER, NEPTUNE, MERCURY, MARS, VENUS, AND OUR OWN EARTH. THEY REVOLVE IN THIS ETERNAL CIRCLE BECAUSE THE SUN EXERTS A PULLING FORCE KNOWN AS GRAVITY UPON THEM...

...AS THEY REVOLVE AROUND THE SUN, SO DO SMALLER BODIES CIRCLE AROUND THEM. URANUS HAS EIGHT SATELLITES. SATURN EIGHT, JUPITER FOUR, NEPTUNE POSSIBLY THREE, AND THE EARTH ONE. THIS LAST WE CALL THE MOON...



"...THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND MOON WILL VARY, BUT IT IS NEVER LESS THAN 218,657 MILES."

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE CAN BOMBARD THE MOON WITH A GUN 900 FEET IN LENGTH, CAPABLE OF HOLDING 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES, AND DESIGNED TO FIRE AN ALUMINUM CANNON BALL WEIGHING 19,250 POUNDS.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, CAPTAIN NICHOLL, A LONG TIME ENEMY OF BARBICANE, SPOKE TO THE EDITOR OF THE "RICHMOND INQUIRER."

I TELL YOU, BARBICANE IS MAD! I SAY NO MAN CAN CONSTRUCT A GUN CAPABLE OF SENDING A SHELL TO THE MOON!

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, NICHOLL HAD WON FAME FOR INVENTING ARMOUR PLATE THAT WOULD RESIST ARTILLERY FIRE. AS SOON AS BARBICANE, WHO WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTOR OF ARTILLERY, INVENTED A NEW BALL OR GUN, NICHOLL INVENTED A NEW PROTECTIVE PLATE. THIS SCIENTIFIC DUEL SOON DEVELOPED INTO A VERY PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO SCIENTISTS. ONE DAY . . .

BARBICANE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PIERCE THIS!

WHEN THE NEW PLATE WAS TESTED AGAINST BARBICANE'S NEWEST AND MOST POWERFUL GUN . . .

AS I PREDICTED! NOT A FRAGMENT HAS PIERCED THE PLATE. IVE WON AT LAST!

PARDON, SIR, MR. BARBICANE WOULD LIKE A SECOND CHANCE. HE WISHES TO MAKE A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT AND REVISE HIS CALCULATIONS.

THE SECOND TIME NICHOLL'S PLATE WAS SHATTERED, AS WAS HIS DREAM OF IMMEDIATE VICTORY IN HIS PRIVATE FEUD WITH BARBICANE . . .

I'LL PERFECT A PLATE YET THAT WILL RESIST ANYTHING THAT BARBICANE CAN DEVISE!

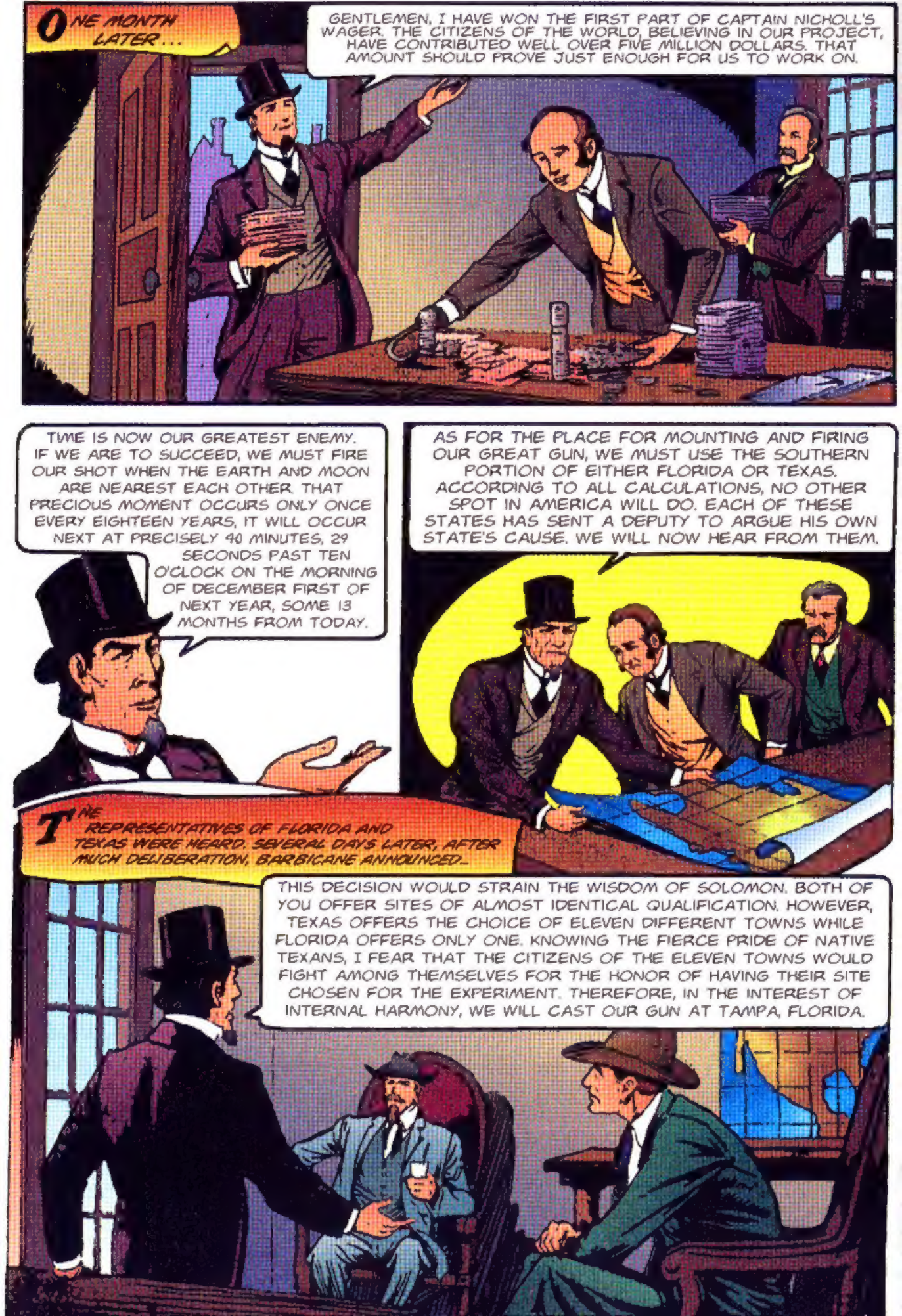
JUST AS NICHOLL COMPLETED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE PERFECT PLATE, THE WAR ENDED AND BARBICANE REFUSED TO EVEN TRY TO DISPROVE NICHOLL'S POINT. NICHOLL'S HATRED KNEW NO BOUNDS AND HE NEVER FORGAVE BARBICANE. THEREFORE, HE DID ALL HE COULD TO WRECK BARBICANE'S PLANS TO REACH THE MOON.

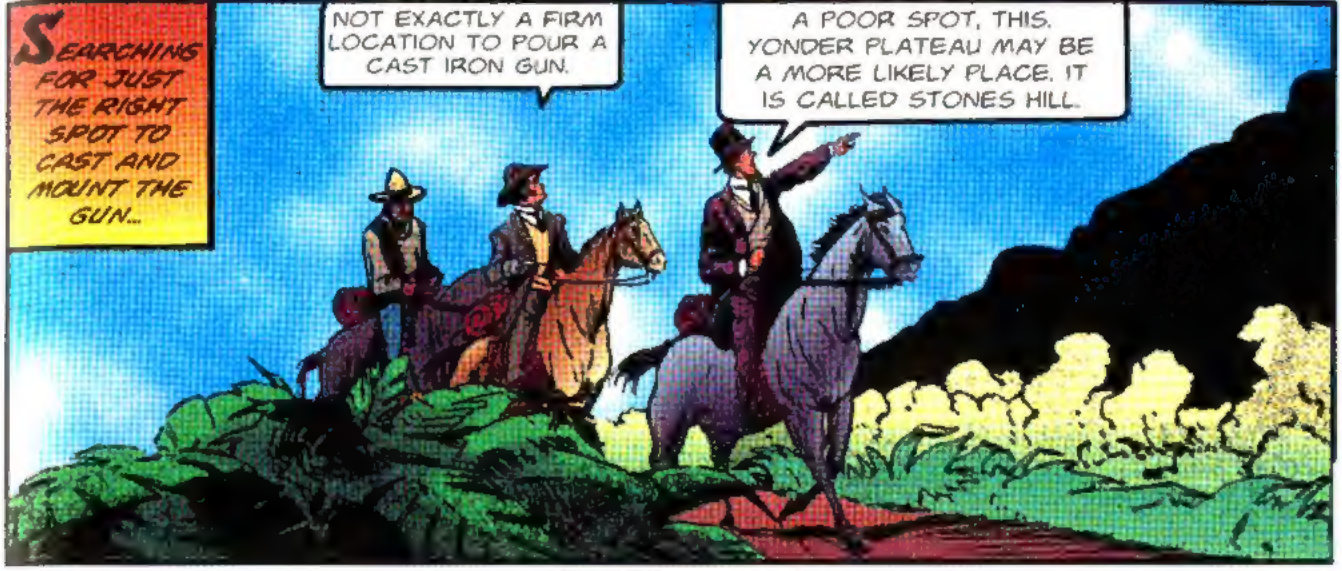
I KNOW THAT BARBICANE WILL FAIL. THEREFORE, I WANT YOU TO PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING. I WAGER $1,000 THAT THE GUN CLUB WILL FAIL TO RAISE THE NECESSARY FUNDS, $2,000 THAT A GUN 900 FEET IN LENGTH CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY MANUFACTURED, $3,000 THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO LOAD THE GUN WILL RESULT IN FAILURE, $4,000 THAT THE GUN WILL BURST WHEN FIRED, $5,000 THAT THE SHELL WILL RISE NO HIGHER THAN SIX MILES, WILL FALL BACK AND SHATTER ON THE EARTH A FEW SECONDS AFTER ITS DISCHARGE.

NICHOLL'S WAGER WAS DULY PUBLISHED. INSTEAD OF THE HEATED REPLY WHICH HE EXPECTED, HE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE REPLY TO HIS CHALLENGE..

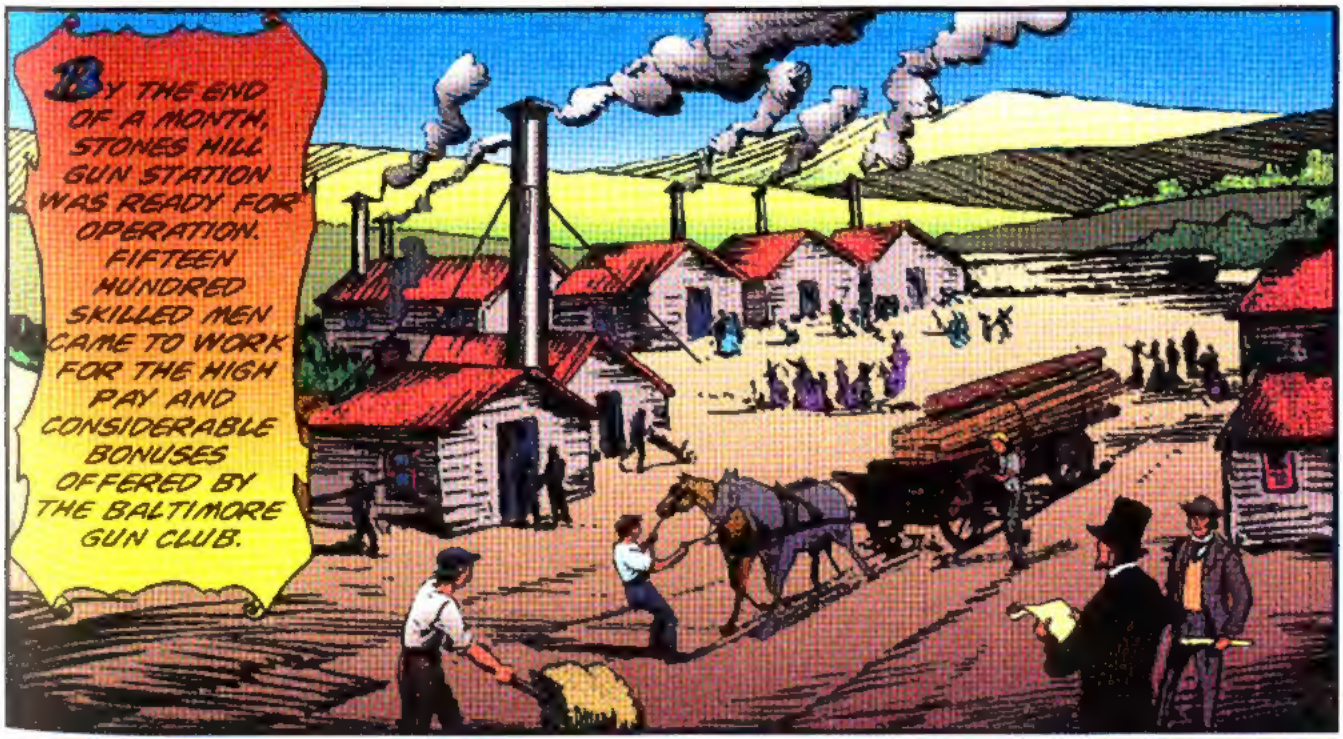
BALTIMORE, OCT. 19, 18--

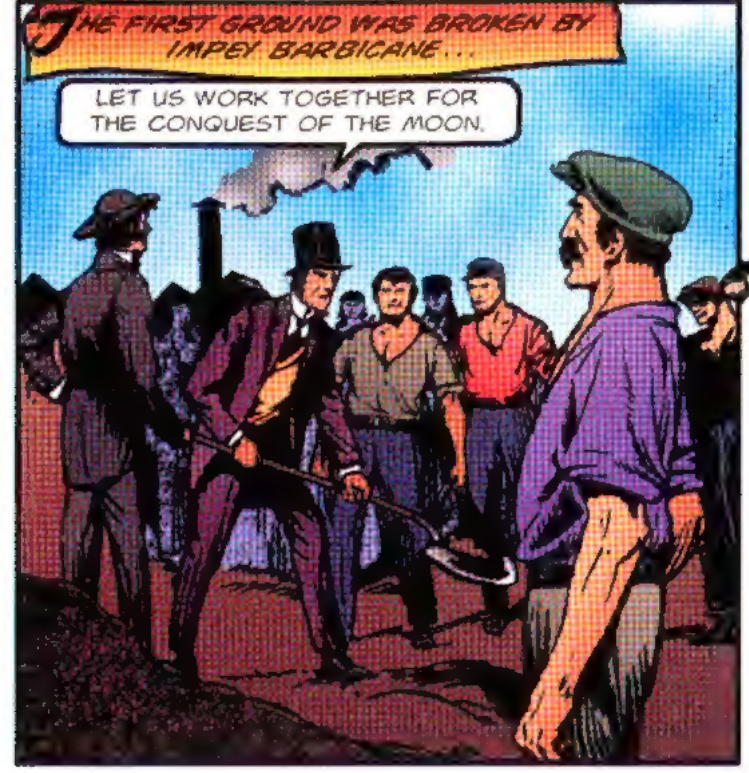
ACCEPTED
BARBICANE


ONE MONTH LATER...
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE WON THE FIRST PART OF CAPTAIN NICHOLL'S WAGER. THE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, BELIEVING IN OUR PROJECT, HAVE CONTRIBUTED WELL OVER FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. THAT AMOUNT SHOULD PROVE JUST ENOUGH FOR US TO WORK ON.
TIME IS NOW OUR GREATEST ENEMY. IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, WE MUST FIRE OUR SHOT WHEN THE EARTH AND MOON ARE NEAREST EACH OTHER. THAT PRECIOUS MOMENT OCCURS ONLY ONCE EVERY EIGHTEEN YEARS, IT WILL OCCUR NEXT AT PRECISELY 40 MINUTES, 29 SECONDS PAST TEN O'CLOCK ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER FIRST OF NEXT YEAR, SOME 13 MONTHS FROM TODAY.
AS FOR THE PLACE FOR MOUNTING AND FIRING OUR GREAT GUN, WE MUST USE THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF EITHER FLORIDA OR TEXAS. ACCORDING TO ALL CALCULATIONS, NO OTHER SPOT IN AMERICA WILL DO. EACH OF THESE STATES HAS SENT A DEPUTY TO ARGUE HIS OWN STATE'S CAUSE. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM THEM.
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FLORIDA AND TEXAS WERE HEARD. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, BARBICANE ANNOUNCED...
THIS DECISION WOULD STRAIN THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. BOTH OF YOU OFFER SITES OF ALMOST IDENTICAL QUALIFICATION. HOWEVER, TEXAS OFFERS THE CHOICE OF ELEVEN DIFFERENT TOWNS WHILE FLORIDA OFFERS ONLY ONE. KNOWING THE FIERCE PRIDE OF NATIVE TEXANS, I FEAR THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS WOULD FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR THE HONOR OF HAVING THEIR SITE CHOSEN FOR THE EXPERIMENT. THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF INTERNAL HARMONY, WE WILL CAST OUR GUN AT TAMPA, FLORIDA.

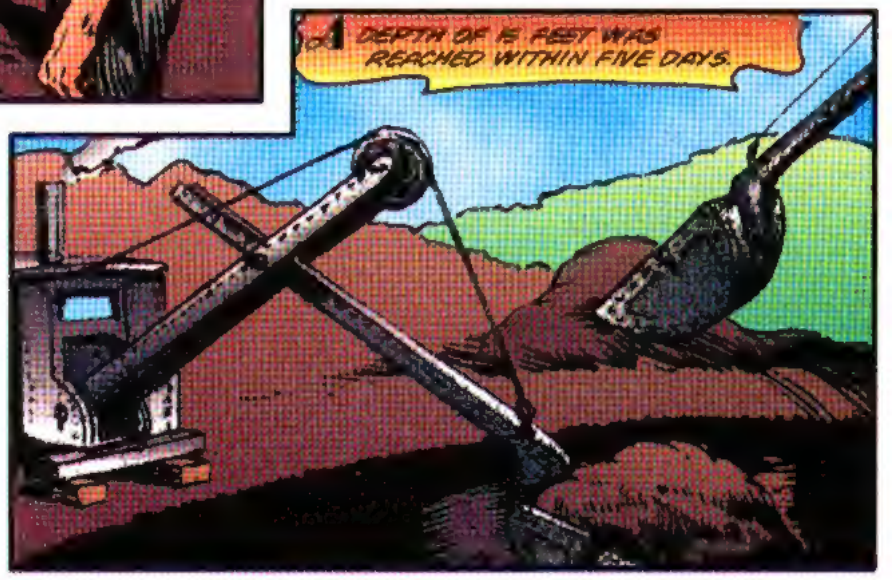

SEARCHING FOR JUST THE RIGHT SPOT TO CAST AND MOUNT THE GUN...
NOT EXACTLY A FIRM LOCATION TO POUR A CAST IRON GUN.
A POOR SPOT, THIS. YONDER PLATEAU MAY BE A MORE LIKELY PLACE. IT IS CALLED STONES HILL.

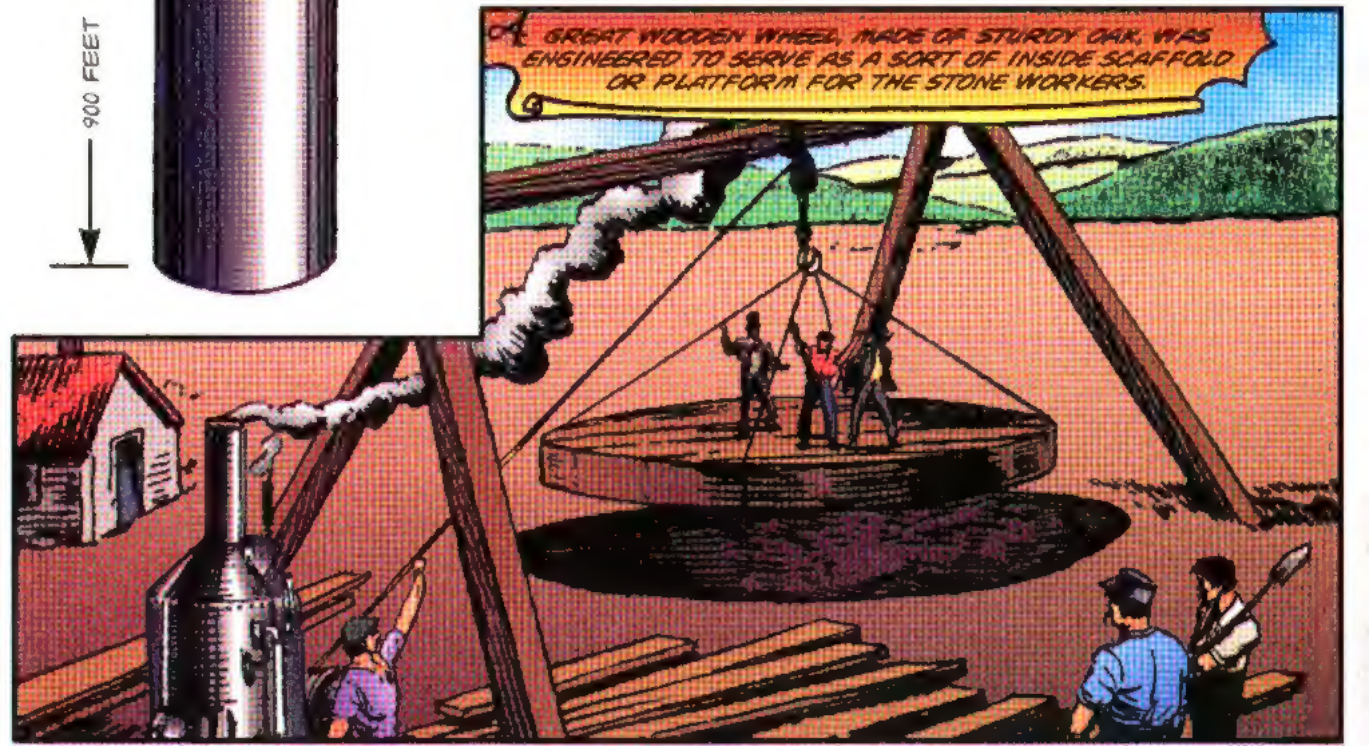
AT THE TOP OF STONES HILL...
THIS IS SURELY A FINE LOCATION.
THE SOIL APPEARS TO CONTAIN MUCH CLAY AND IS IDEAL FOR OUR PURPOSE. THIS LARGE PLAIN COULD ACCOMODATE OUR WORKSHOPS, FURNACES AND WORKMEN'S HUTS. YES, I HAVE DECIDED. FROM THIS PLACE SHALL OUR SHELL BEGIN ITS PERILOUS FLIGHT INTO THE OUTER REGIONS OF THE SOLAR WORLD.


BY THE END OF A MONTH, STONES HILL GUN STATION WAS READY FOR OPERATION. FIFTEEN HUNDRED SKILLED MEN CAME TO WORK FOR THE HIGH PAY AND CONSIDERABLE BONUSES OFFERED BY THE BALTIMORE GUN CLUB.



"AFTER THE GREAT EARTH TUBE IS COMPLETED, WE WILL CAST AN IRON GUN WITH WALLS SIX FEET IN THICKNESS. WE NEED THIS GREAT STRENGTH IF OUR CANNON IS TO WITHSTAND THE EXPLOSION OF THE 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES REQUIRED TO SEND OUR SHELL TO THE MOON!"

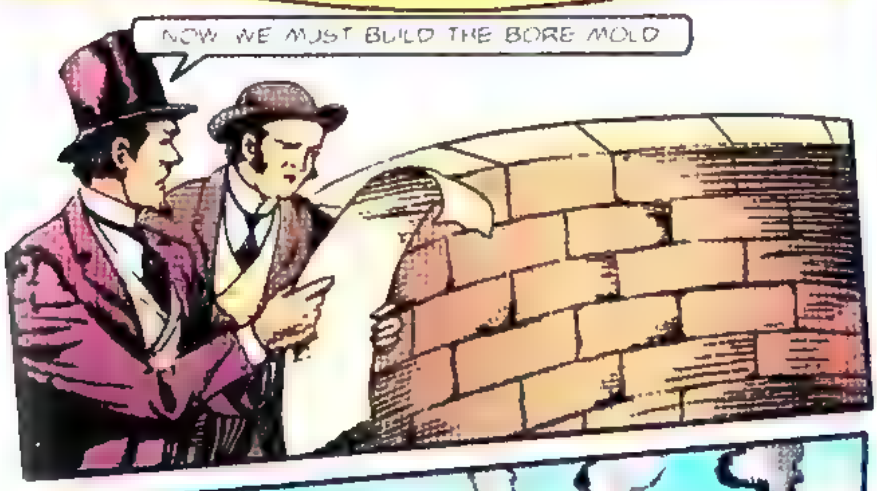


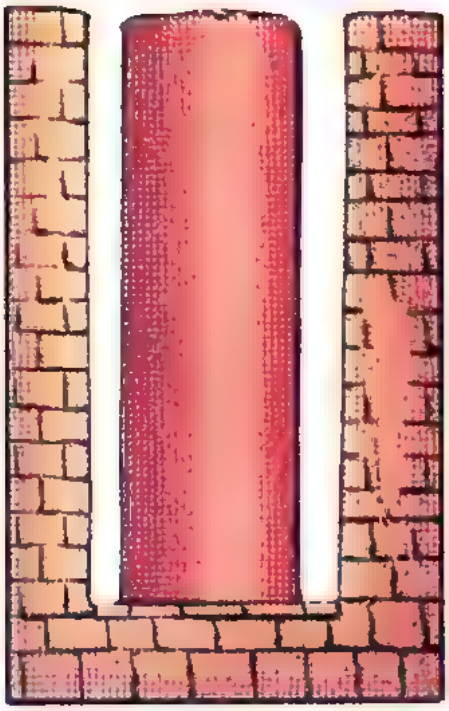


THE WHEEL SERVED AS A PLATFORM FOR THE MEN DIGGING OUT THE EARTH AND ALSO AS A BASE FOR THE STONES AND BRICKS THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF THE WALL OF THE GUN HOLE. IN THIS WAY, BOTH THE DIGGERS AND THE MASONS WERE ABLE TO WORK AT THE SAME TIME

THE BORE-MOLD WAS A COLUMN OF SAND AND CLAY EARTH WHICH WAS BUILT IN THE CENTER OF THE GIANT HOLD. THIS COLUMN EXACTLY FILLED THE SPACE RESERVED FOR THE BORE OF THE CANNON

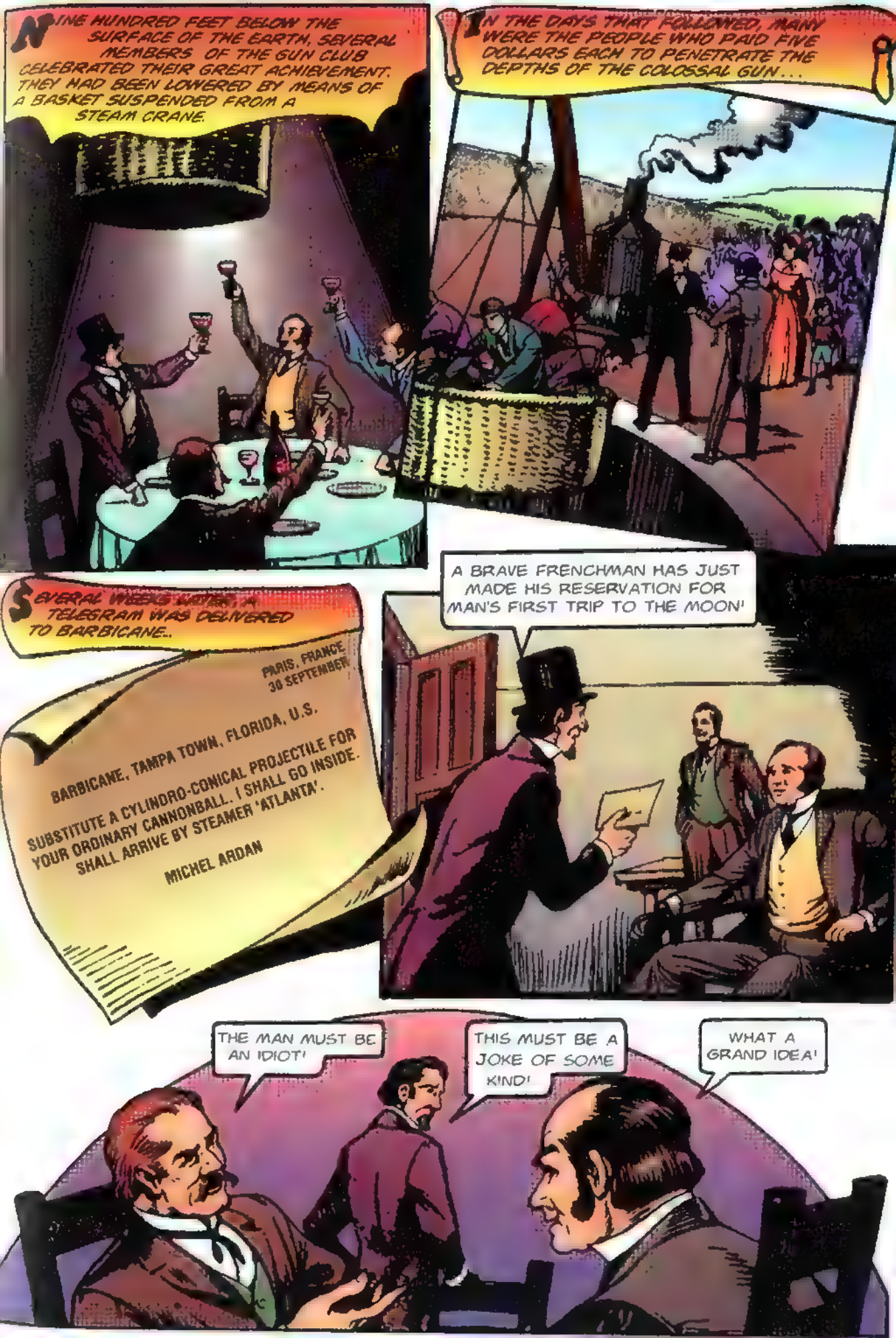
EIGHT MONTHS LATER, THE STONE LINING OF THE GUN HOLE WAS FINISHED AND BARBICANE WAS READY FOR THE NEXT STEP..





WHEN THE BORE-MOLD WAS READY, IRON BARS WERE MELTED DOWN IN FURNACES BUILT IN A CIRCLE AROUND THE EXCAVATION..

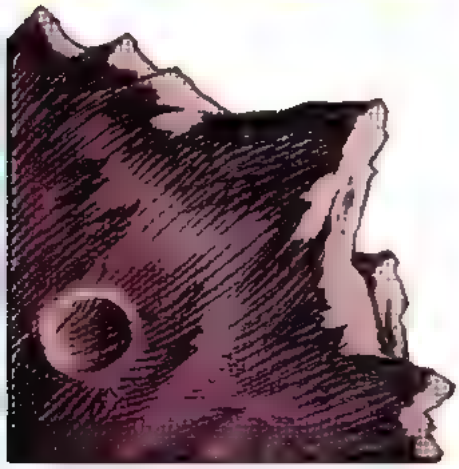
THEN THE LIQUID IRON WAS POURED INTO THE EXCAVATION AROUND THE BORE-MOLD. THERE WERE MANY ANXIOUS MOMENTS AS THIS OPERATION STARTED. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE IRON WOULD CRUSH THE BORE-MOLD AND ALL THE WORK WOULD BE IN VAIN.
THE OPERATION, HOWEVER, MET WITH SUCCESS.
MASTON, IN HIS GREAT EXCITEMENT, LEANED OVER TOO FAR AND WAS SAVED FROM A FRIGHTFUL FALL ONLY BY THE SWIFTNESS AND STRENGTH OF COLONEL BLOMSBERRY...
ON THE 22ND OF SEPTEMBER, THE BORE-MOLD WAS REMOVED, LEAVING A PERFECT BARREL FOR THE CANNON...
CAPTAIN NICHOLL HAS LOST HIS SECOND WAGER! WE HAVE CAST THE GREAT GUN WHICH HE CLAIMED COULD NOT BE CAST


NINE HUNDRED FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GUN CLUB CELEBRATED THEIR GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. THEY HAD BEEN LOWERED BY MEANS OF A BASKET SUSPENDED FROM A STEAM CRANE.
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, MANY WERE THE PEOPLE WHO PAID FIVE DOLLARS EACH TO PENETRATE THE DEPTHS OF THE COLOSSAL GUN...
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, A TELEGRAM WAS DELIVERED TO BARBICANE...
PARIS, FRANCE
30 SEPTEMBER
BARBICANE, TAMPA TOWN, FLORIDA, U.S.
SUBSTITUTE A CYLINDRO-CONICAL PROJECTILE FOR YOUR ORDINARY CANNONBALL. I SHALL GO INSIDE. SHALL ARRIVE BY STEAMER 'ATLANTA'.
MICHEL ARDAN
A BRAVE FRENCHMAN HAS JUST MADE HIS RESERVATION FOR MAN'S FIRST TRIP TO THE MOON!
THE MAN MUST BE AN IDIOT!
THIS MUST BE A JOKE OF SOME KIND!
WHAT A GRAND IDEA!

I WONDER IF MICHEL ARDAN IS FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRIBLE NATURE OF THE MOON?

THE MOON IS RIDDLED WITH GREAT CRATERS, PROBABLY DUE TO VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE SOME SEVERAL MILLION YEARS AGO."

ALSO, WE HAVE THE GREAT MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON. ASTRONOMERS HAVE ESTIMATED THE PEAKS TO RISE SOME 22,606 FEET."



DO YOU BELIEVE THE MOON IS INHABITED?

NO ASTRONOMER HAS EVER SEEN SIGNS OF LIFE ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. PERHAPS MICHEL ARDAN WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION SOMEDAY.

ON OCTOBER 20TH, MICHEL ARDAN'S SHIP ARRIVED AT TAMPA FROM FRANCE. A GREAT CROWD WAITED TO SEE WHAT THIS MAN, WHO WANTED TO BE SHOT TO THE MOON, LOOKED LIKE.

AFTER THE SHIP DOCKED, BARBICANE RUSHED ABOARD.

MICHEL ARDAN?

YES. YOU MUST BE PRESIDENT BARBICANE PLEASE COME TO MY CABIN.

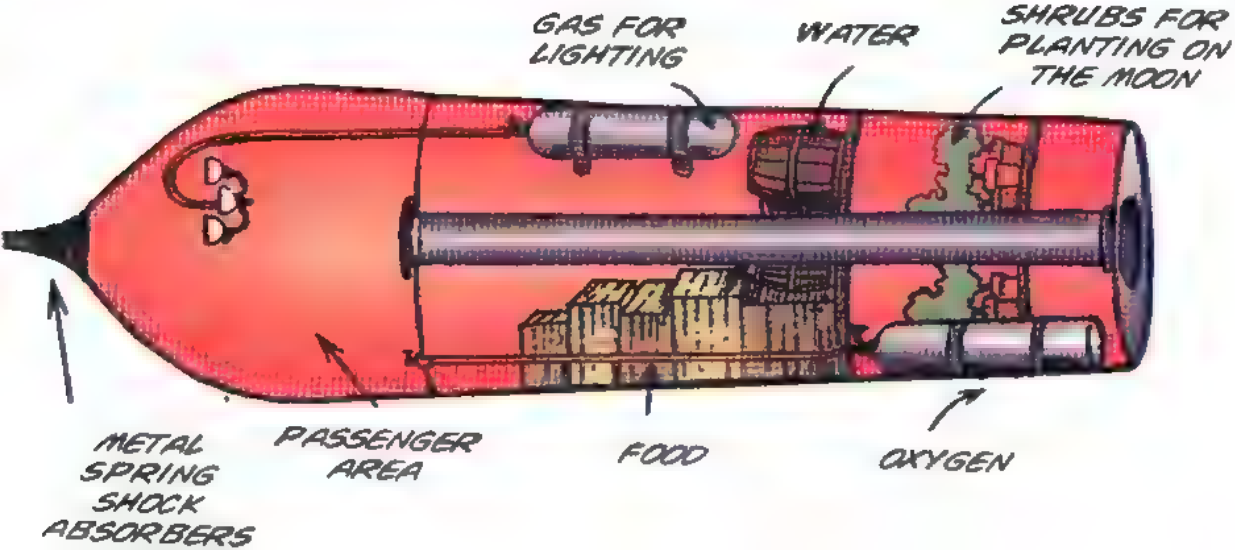
IN ARDAN'S CABIN...

WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING IMPATIENTLY TO HEAR THE DETAILS OF YOUR PROPOSED VOYAGE TO THE MOON

MONSIEUR, YOU HAVE A GREAT GUN, I HAVE COMPLETE PLANS FOR THE SHELL. LET US GO ASHORE AND TOMORROW MORNING I SHALL OUTLINE MY PLANS TO YOU AND YOUR MEN

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

HERE IS A DRAWING OF MY SHELL. THE FORM WILL KEEP THE SHELL POINTED AT THE MOON AT ALL TIMES. THUS, I WILL BE ABLE TO STAND ERECT AND AVOID TURNING AND TUMBLING HEAD OVER HEELS, AS WOULD BE THE CASE IN AN ORDINARY BALL



BARBICANE'S ARCH RIVAL, CAPTAIN NICHOLL, SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY.
MR. ARDAN, HOW WILL YOU AVOID BEING ROASTED TO DEATH BY THE HEAT OF THE FRICTION CREATED WHEN YOUR SHELL RUSHES THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE?
THOUGH I DO NOT KNOW YOU, SIR, I WILL ANSWER YOUR WELL-PUT QUESTION. AT THE SPEED PROMISED BY BARBICANE'S GUN--12,000 YARDS PER SECOND--IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF SECONDS BEFORE I AM IN OUTER SPACE WHERE FRICTION DOES NOT EXIST.
WHAT SHALL YOU DO FOR AIR?
I SHALL MAKE AIR BY CHEMICAL PROCESS.
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO SURVIVE THE EXTREME SHOCK OF THE TAKE OFF EXPLOSION?
I BELIEVE THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SOME WAY.
AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND ON THE MOON WHEN YOU ARRIVE? HOW CAN YOU BE SURE YOU WILL FIND THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO SUPPORT LIFE?
I SHALL TAKE A TWELVEMONTH SUPPLY OF FOOD WITH ME. AS FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION, IF I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I MIGHT FIND ON THE MOON, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR ME TO MAKE THE TRIP.

BARBICANE, WHO HAD BEEN QUIET ALL THE WHILE, INTERRUPTED...

MR. ARDAN, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THIS MAN'S QUESTIONS. HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR PROJECT EXCEPT TO TRY TO HINDER US.

NONETHELESS, I SHALL PROVE TO HIM AND TO ALL DOUBTERS THAT OUR MISSION IS REASONABLY CERTAIN OF SUCCESS.

NICHOLL THEN ASKED...

ASSUMING THAT THIS RIDICULOUS GUN MANAGES TO SHOOT YOU TO THE MOON IN ONE PIECE, HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO RETURN TO EARTH?

WHILE THE QUESTION TOOK ALL THE SPECTATORS BY SURPRISE, ARDAN'S QUIET REPLY ASTOUNDED THEM...

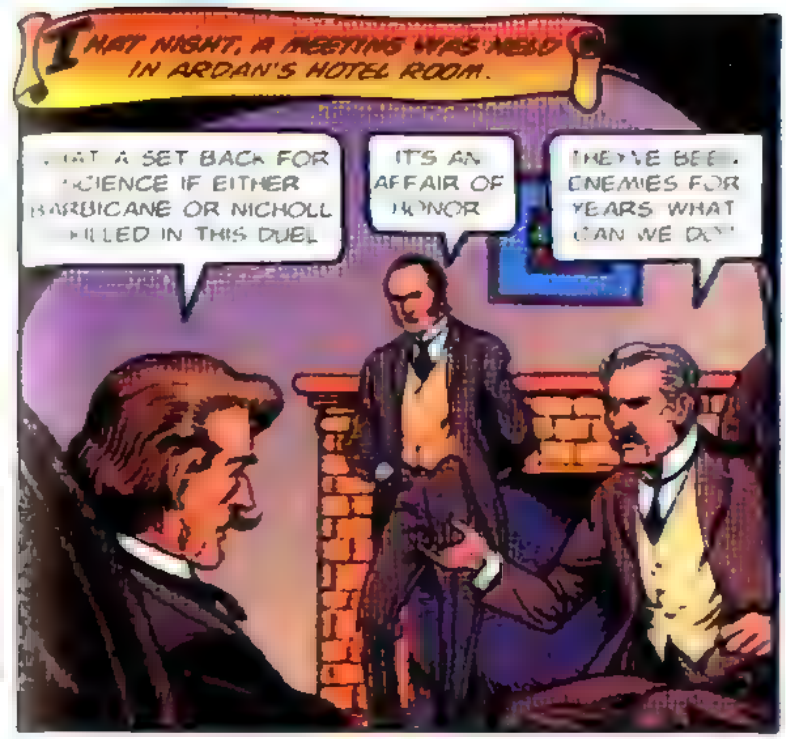
I DO NOT EXPECT TO RETURN!

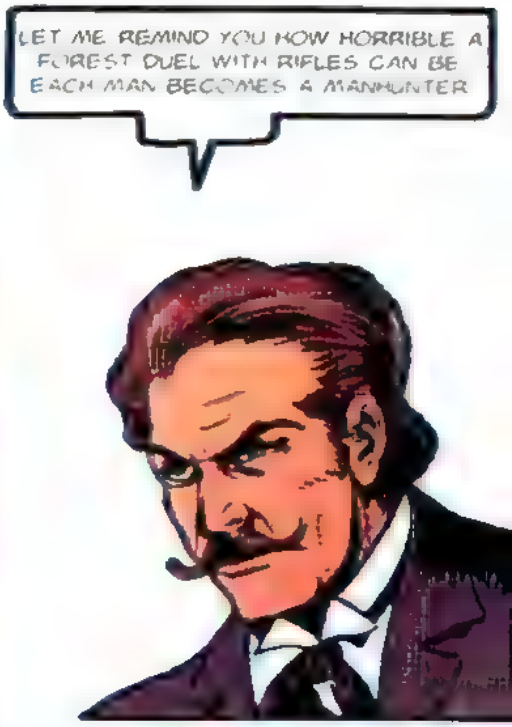
YOU MEAN YOU WILL RISK YOUR LIFE TO DISCOVER FACTS ABOUT THE MOON WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REVEAL TO YOUR FELLOW EARTHMEN?

AFTER MY ARRIVAL ON THE MOON, I SHALL BUSY MYSELF PROVIDING METHODS TO RELAY WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE MOON. I MAY USE THE BLOCK LETTER SYSTEM.

THE BLOCK-LETTER SYSTEM USES STONE BLOCKS TO SPELL OUT MESSAGES. THE LETTERS ARE MADE SO LARGE THAT THEY MAY BE SEEN FROM VAST DISTANCES THROUGH POWERFUL TELESCOPES.

NICHOLL BECAME WILD
YOU WILL KILL YOURSELF! AND YOUR DEATH WILL BE THAT OF A MADMAN USELESS EVEN TO SCIENCE
PULLING A PISTOL FROM HIS COAT, NICHOLL TURNED AND POINTED THE GUN AT BARBICANE.
AND YOUR DEATH WILL BE THE FAULT OF THE IGNORAMUS WHO ORGANIZED THIS ABSURD AND IMPOSSIBLE EXPERIMENT IMPEY BARBICANE!
MASTON IMMEDIATELY GRABBED NICHOLL FROM BEHIND. BARBICANE STORMED AT HIS RIVAL AND WOULD-BE KILLER...
YOU HAVE PUBLICLY INSULTED ME CAPTAIN NICHOLL. I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL WITH RIFLES!
ACCEPTED! NAME THE TIME AND THE PLACE
THE FOREST OF SKERSNAW, THREE MILES FROM HERE. AT FIVE IN THE MORNING YOU ENTER FROM THE NORTH AND I SHALL ENTER FROM THE SOUTH!
I SHALL BE THERE!


THAT NIGHT, A MEETING WAS HELD IN ARDAN'S HOTEL ROOM.
WHAT A SET BACK FOR SCIENCE IF EITHER BARBICANE OR NICHOLL WERE KILLED IN THIS DUEL
IT'S AN AFFAIR OF HONOR
THEY'VE BEEN ENEMIES FOR YEARS WHAT CAN WE DO?


LET ME REMIND YOU HOW HORRIBLE A FOREST DUEL WITH RIFLES CAN BE EACH MAN BECOMES A MANHUNTER

EACH ARMED WITH A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE, TRACKING EACH OTHER DOWN LIKE WILD BEASTS!"

A FATAL AMBUSH IS THE TRAP, AND DEATH IS THE REWARD!"

I MUST SAVE THE LIVES OF BARBICANE AND NICHOLL SOMEHOW I MUST CONVINCE THEM TO GIVE UP THIS DEADLY MANHUNT

TOWARD DAWN, ARDAN REACHED THE FOREST. HE CLIMBED INTO A TALL TREE AND SCANNED THE FOREST WITH HIS BINOCULARS.
THERE'S CAPTAIN NICHOLL

CAPTAIN NICHOLL WAS STRUGGLING TO FREE A LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL BIRD FROM THE DEADLY WEB OF A GIANT TROPICAL SPIDER...

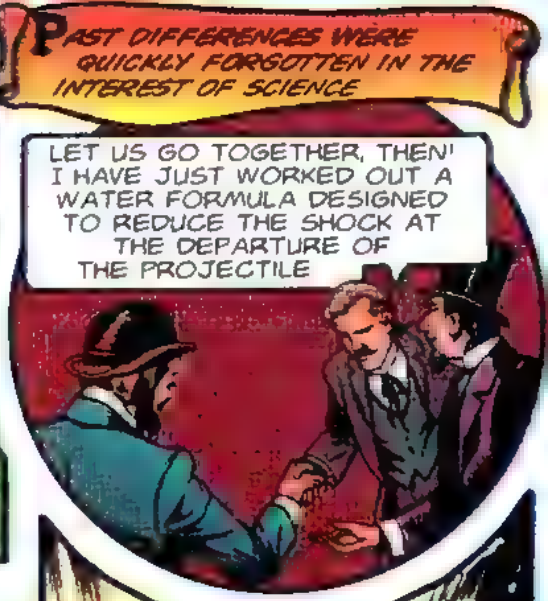
ARDAN HURRIED TO NICHOLL'S SIDE.
YOU HAVE BEEN MERCIFUL TO THAT BIRD WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THE SAME MERCY TO BARBICANE? CALL OFF THIS TERRIBLE DUEL, AND I WILL MAKE YOU A MOST FASCINATING PROPOSITION!
WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSITION?

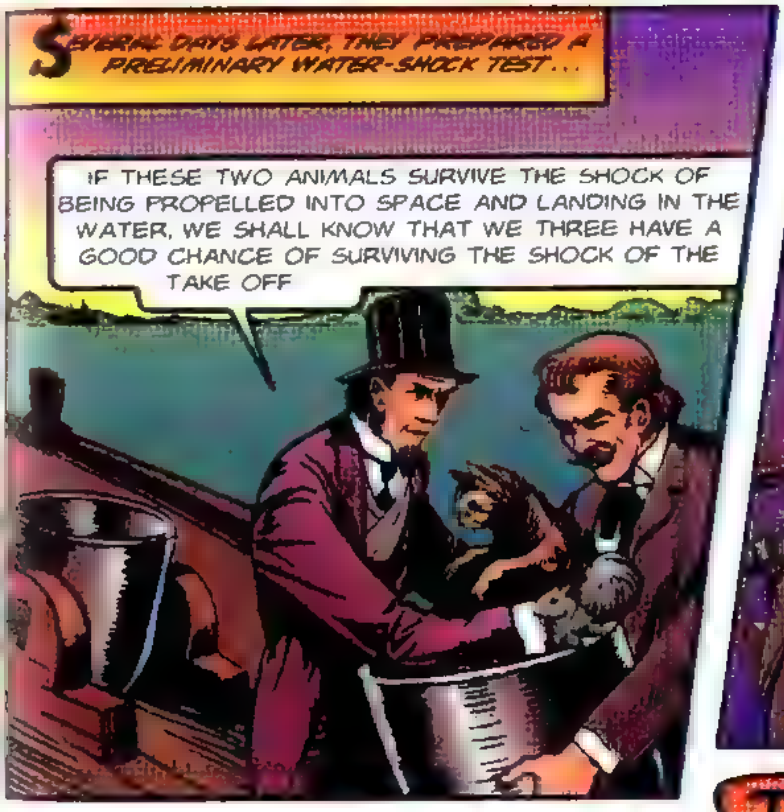
I HAVE SUCH A TREMENDOUS OFFER THAT IT CAN BE REVEALED ONLY IN THE PRESENCE OF BARBICANE LET US SEARCH FOR HIM.

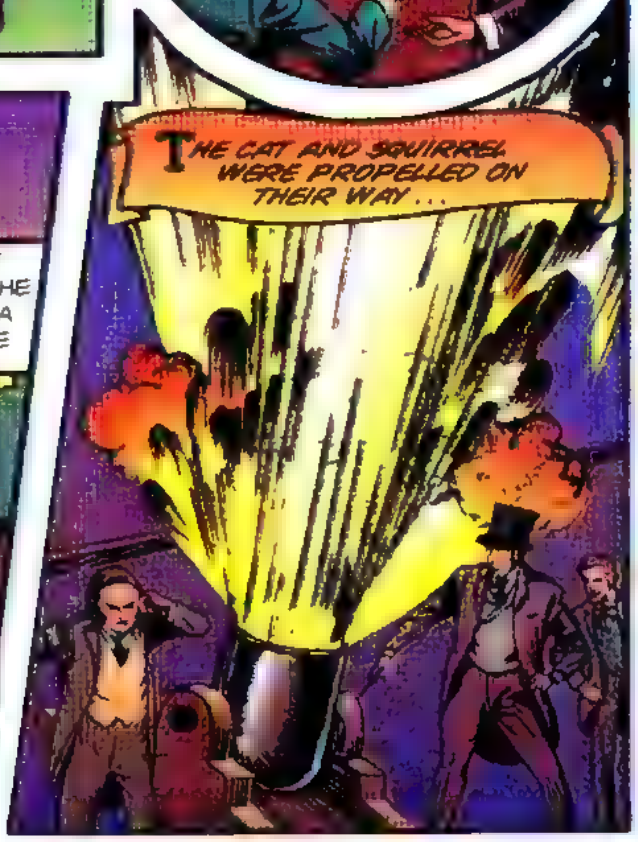
THEY SOON CAME UPON BARBICANE...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
AN OFFER BY ARDAN TO REVEAL AN IMPORTANT PROPOSITION HAS CAUSED ME TO LAY MY GUN ASIDE. LET US LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS!

SINCE YOU BOTH DISAGREE ABOUT MY CHANCES TO REACH THE MOON, I INVITE YOU BOTH TO COME WITH ME TO THE MOON!

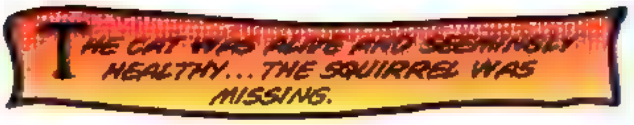
GO ALONG WITH YOU TO THE MOON?
WOULD THERE BE ROOM FOR THREE?
I WILL DESIGN SPACE


PAST DIFFERENCES WERE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE
LET US GO TOGETHER, THEN! I HAVE JUST WORKED OUT A WATER FORMULA DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE SHOCK AT THE DEPARTURE OF THE PROJECTILE


SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THEY PREPARED A PRELIMINARY WATER-SHOCK TEST...
IF THESE TWO ANIMALS SURVIVE THE SHOCK OF BEING PROPELLED INTO SPACE AND LANDING IN THE WATER, WE SHALL KNOW THAT WE THREE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE SHOCK OF THE TAKE OFF


THE CAT AND SQUIRREL WERE PROPELLED ON THEIR WAY...

OUT IN THE HARBOR, MASTON AND BLOMSBERRY RETRIEVED THE SHELL...


THE CAT WAS ALIVE AND SEEMINGLY HEALTHY... THE SQUIRREL WAS MISSING.

LATER IN BARBICANE'S OFFICE
VERY PERPLEXING! THE CAT SEEMS ALL RIGHT BUT THE SQUIRREL IS GONE. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
A SAD TALE, WITH A SAD EXPLANATION. THE INNOCENT SQUIRREL WAS EATEN BY THE GREEDY CAT!
NOTE THE ROBUST STATE OF HEALTH ENJOYED BY OUR FELINE FRIEND, MR. CAT. HE HAS SURVIVED A MOST VIOLENT SHOCK. AND WHAT THIS CAT CAN DO, WE CAN DO ALSO!
AFTER PLACING AN ORDER FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE GREAT SHELL, BARBICANE AND HIS FRIENDS TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DANGEROUS PROBLEMS OF LOADING THEIR GREAT GUN WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVES.
ONE MISCUE HERE AND WE'LL ALL EXPLODE LIKE COUNTRY POPCORN!
EASY EASY
THREE EVENINGS LATER, THE LOADING WAS COMPLETED.
I AM PAYING OFF THE THIRD PART OF MY BET I WAGERED THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LOAD YOUR GUN WITHOUT A MAJOR EXPLOSION. I WAS WRONG. CONGRATULATIONS!
I WILL USE THE MONEY TO HELP DEFRAY OUR EXPENSES. NOW LET US MAKE READY TO LOWER THE SHELL INTO THE GUN!

THE GIANT CRANE DESCENDED TO DROP THE GREAT SHELL...
MEANWHILE, ON LONG'S PEAK, IN MISSOURI, WORKMEN COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GREAT TELESCOPE.
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?
EXCELLENT SEE FOR YOURSELF THE MOON SEEMS TO BE ONLY FIVE MILES AWAY
AT THE COMMUNICATION SHED WHERE TELEGRAPH LINES CONNECTED THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TELESCOPE WITH TAMPA
SEND THIS MESSAGE BARBICANE WE ARE READY WITH OUR TELESCOPE TO FOLLOW YOUR FLIGHT TO THE MOON. WE WILL HAVE YOU UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION AT ALL TIMES GOOD LUCK! FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT LONG'S PEAK

FINALLY, THE DAY FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHELL FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON ARRIVED. ALL WAS IN READINESS FOR THE JOURNEY. ARDAN HAD SUPERVISED THE LOADING.

YOU HAVE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING... EVEN TWO DOGS.

YES, WE SHALL CALL THEM NEPTUNE AND SATELLITE

AS DEPARTURE TIME NEARED, THE MOON SWUNG EVER CLOSER TO THE MINIMUM DISTANCE OF 218,657 MILES FROM THE EARTH.

NOTHING WAS LEFT TO CHANCE!

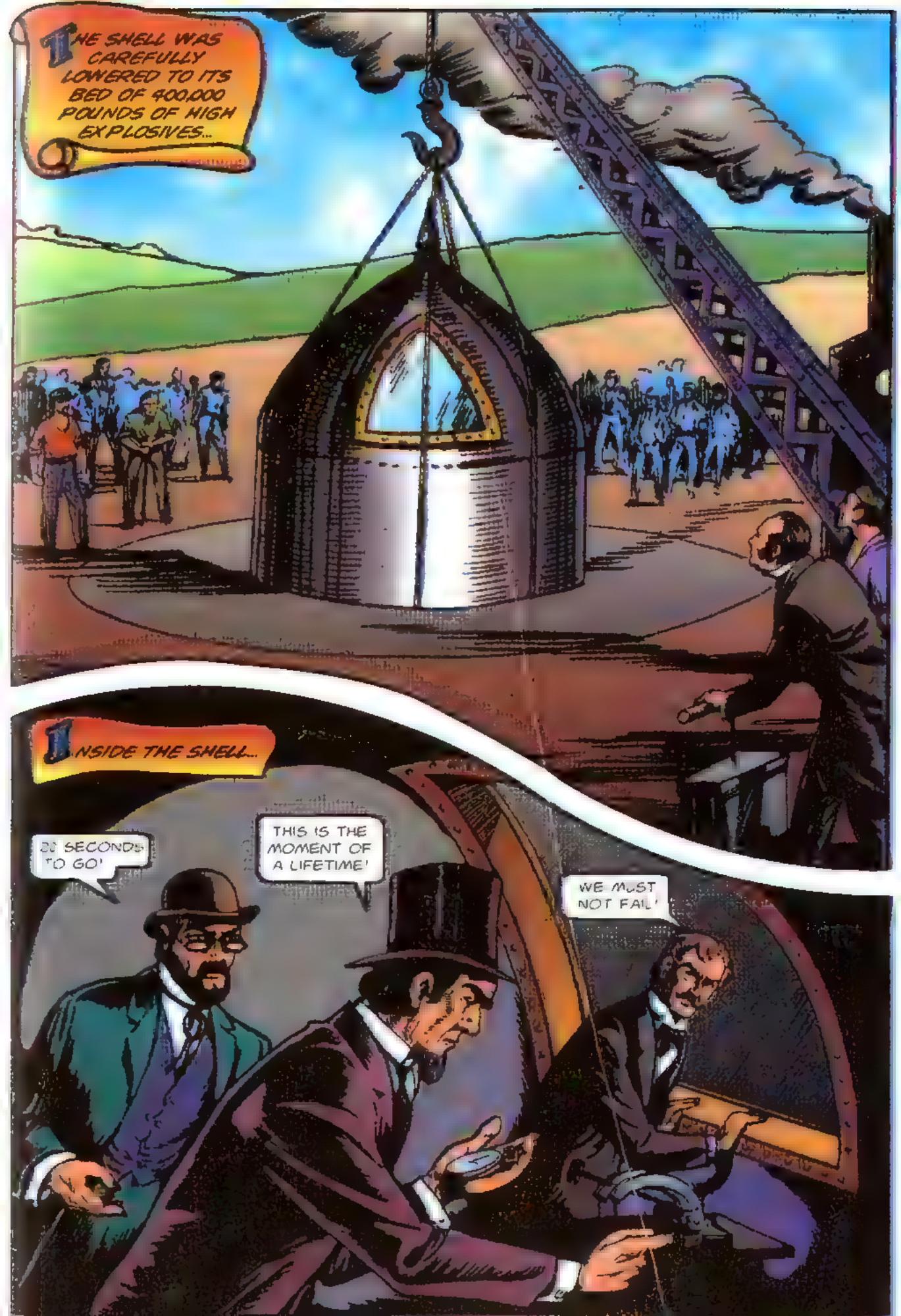
HOW ARE THE ROCKETS?

POWERFUL. READY TO BE FIRED AT THAT LAST MOMENT BEFORE WE LAND ON THE MOON! THEN THE FORCE OF THEIR BLAST WILL SLOW OUR LANDING SPEED ON THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT!

SOON, JUST THREE MINUTES REMAINED BEFORE BLAST-OFF TIME, THE THREE PIONEERS OF SPACE AND SCIENCE FILED INTO THE SHELL.

BE SURE YOU FASTEN THIS ENTRY PORT SECURELY

DEPEND ON ME

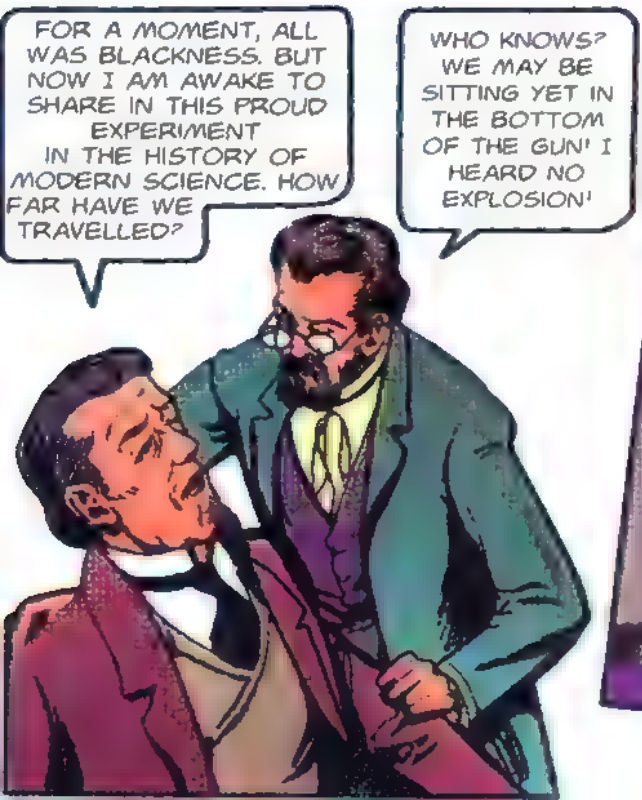

THE SHELL WAS CAREFULLY LOWERED TO ITS BED OF 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES...
INSIDE THE SHELL...
30 SECONDS TO GO!
THIS IS THE MOMENT OF A LIFETIME!
WE MUST NOT FAIL!

NINE HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THEM, MASTON PREPARED TO PRESS THE ELECTRIC DETONATOR!
FIFTEEN SECONDS TEN SECONDS FIVE SECONDS..FOUR THREE...TWO GO!
A GREAT RED FLAME RUSHED UP FROM THE MOUTH OF THE GUN. MASTON WAS BLOWN OFF HIS FEET.

RUSHING AWAY FROM THE EARTH TOWARD THE DISTANT MOON, THE GREAT SHELL WENT THROUGH SPACE AT AN ESTIMATED SPEED OF 12,000 FEET PER SECOND. THUS FAR, THE GREAT PROJECTILE HAD SURVIVED THE CRUSHING PRESSURE OF THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE WHICH SENT IT ROCKETING INTO THE HEAVENS, AND WAS RESISTING THE TERRIBLE HEAT CREATED BY FRICTION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAN WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE MOON!

IN THE SHELL, TEN MINUTES AFTER TAKE-OFF
THE BLAST! IT WAS OVERPOWERING!

WHERE AM I?
FLYING TO THE MOON, AS YOU WILL SOON REMEMBER. BRING YOURSELF TOGETHER AND HELP ME REVIVE OUR ESTEEMED COLLEGUE.


FOR A MOMENT, ALL WAS BLACKNESS. BUT NOW I AM AWAKE TO SHARE IN THIS PROUD EXPERIMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN SCIENCE. HOW FAR HAVE WE TRAVELLED?
WHO KNOWS? WE MAY BE SITTING YET IN THE BOTTOM OF THE GUN! I HEARD NO EXPLOSION!

A METAL SHIELD WAS REMOVED FROM A STRONG THICK CRYSTAL PORT HOLE.
TAKE A LOOK DOWN HERE AT YOUR FEET, BARBICANE. TELL US WHAT YOU SEE

WE ARE LEAVING THE EARTH AT A GREAT RATE OF SPEED!
OBVIOUSLY, WE WERE SHOT FROM THE CANNON'S MOUTH BUT WHY DID WE NOT HEAR THE EXPLOSION?
I HAVE IT! WE DID NOT HEAR THE EXPLOSION BECAUSE WE WERE TRAVELING FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND OUR SPEED WAS 12,000 FEET PER SECOND! THEREFORE, SOUND HAS NEVER HAD TIME TO CATCH UP WITH US!
SUDDENLY.
WHAT IS IT?
LOOK! OUR DOOM APPROACHES!
THAT FLAMING ASTEROID IS HEADED DIRECTLY ACROSS OUR PATH! WE WILL COLLIDE WITHIN SECONDS!
THIS FIERY BODY WAS ONE OF A NUMBER THAT REVOLVE AROUND THE EARTH!

HOW CAN WE SAVE OURSELVES?
WE CAN'T OUR ROCKETS MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF CHANGING OUR COURSE, BUT THERE ISN'T TIME TO IGNITE THEM!
AS THE MOMENT OF COLLISION NEARED...
TO THINK THAT OUR GLORIOUS EXPERIMENT WILL END IN THIS FASHION!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT...ON EARTH.
WHAT DO YOU SEE OF OUR FRIENDS?
I CAN'T SEE A THING, DUE TO THE VIOLENT BLAST OF THEIR TAKE OFF, THE WHOLE EARTH SEEMS TO BE COVERED WITH STORM CLOUDS
AT THAT SAME MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF MILES ABOVE THE EARTH...

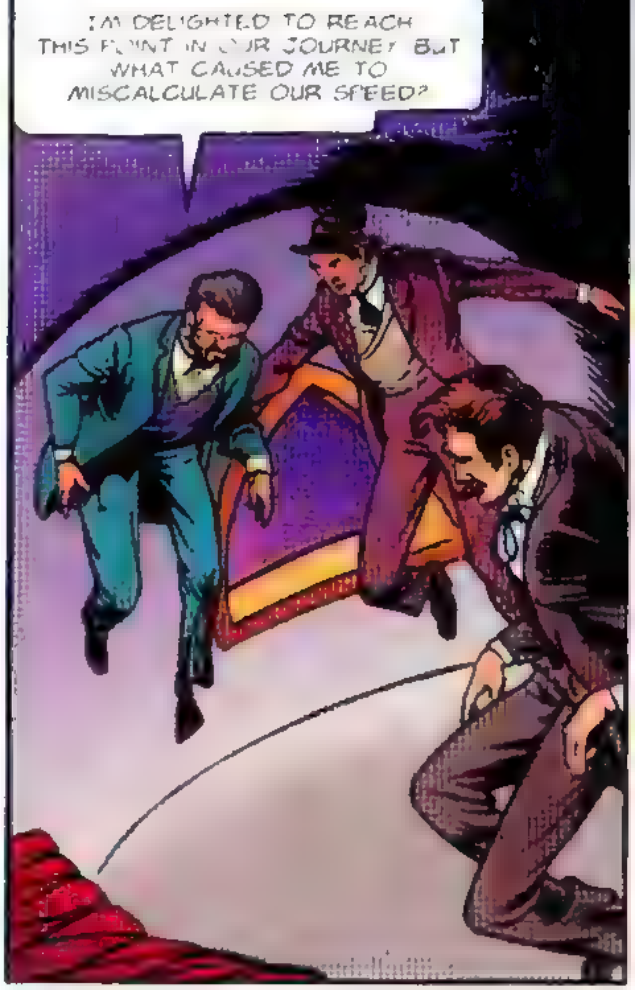
A MOMENT LATER, A TERRIFIC SHOCK WAS FELT..
WE HAVE BEEN HIT
NO! A KINDLY PROVIDENCE HAS SEEN FIT TO PROTECT US!
I WILL THANK PROVIDENCE NOT TO GIVE US SUCH A SCARE IN THE FUTURE
SUDDENLY, A WEIRD CRY WAS HEARD..
ARE WE NOW TO BE HAUNTED?
COULD IT BE THE GHOST OF THE ASTEROID THAT NARROWLY AVOIDED FRYING US INTO ETERNITY?
THAT IS THE PAINFUL CRY OF ONE OF OUR DOGS!

SATELLITE APPEARS INJURED!
THE DOG HAS BEEN THROWN AGAINST THE ROOF...
MY POOR SATELLITE IS DEAD
NOW ANOTHER PROBLEM PRESENTED ITSELF...
HOW CAN WE BURY A DOG BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON?
OPEN THE FLOOR PORT, AND CAST HIM OUT!
QUICKLY! WE MUST NOT LOSE PRECIOUS OXYGEN
SOME MINUTES LATER...
I FEAR SOMETHINGS IS WRONG WITH OUR SPEED ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE SHOULD BE MUCH NEARER TO THE MOON!

LOOK! WHAT IS THAT?
THIS TELESCOPE SHOULD TELL US SOMETHING
THAT IS OUR OLD FRIEND, SATELLITE HE HAS NO SPEED TO PROPEL HIM, AND LIKE OURSELVES HE IS NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE MOON TO BE PULLED DOWN TO ITS SURFACE
LOOK! MY GLASS S FLOATING
WE HAVE REACHED THAT MYSTERIOUS AREA WHERE WE ARE ALMOST BEYOND THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF THE EARTH, AND NOT YET WITHIN THE PULL OF THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF THE MOON!

THE ABSENCE OF GRAVITY HAD AMUSING RESULTS

FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE SUSPENDED IN A WORLD WITHOUT WEIGHT

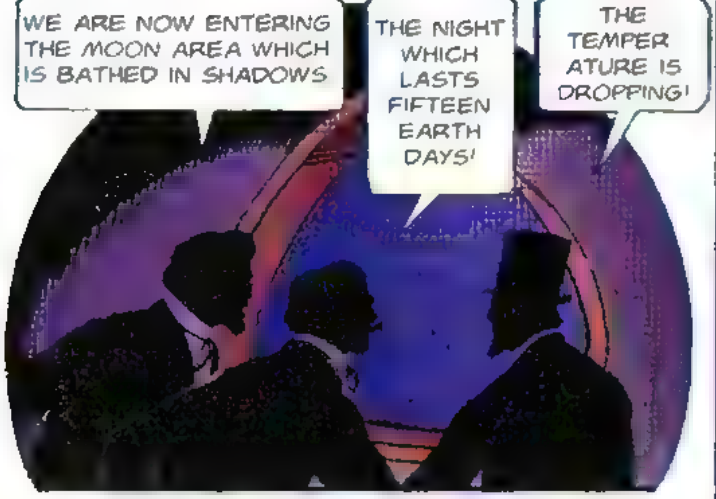

I'M DELIGHTED TO REACH THIS POINT IN OUR JOURNEY BUT WHAT CAUSED ME TO MISCALCULATE OUR SPEED?

YOU DID NOT MISCALCULATE! THE FIERY ASTEROID IS AT FAULT. THE FORCE OF IT AS IT PASSED US KNOCKED OUR SHELL OFF ITS COURSE

ARDAN MADE HIS WAY TO THE VIEWING PORT
BEHOLD THE MOON

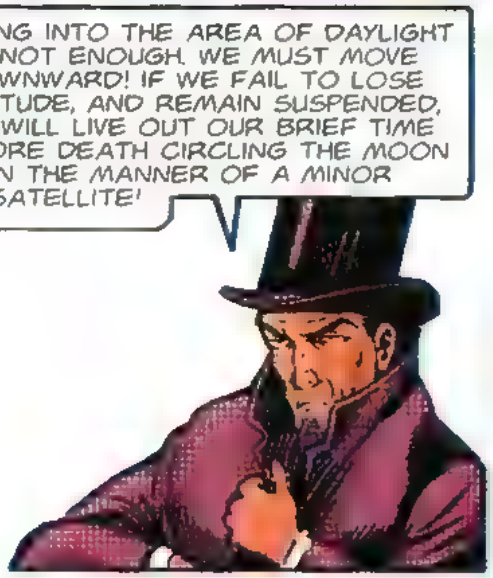
GREAT MOUNTAIN RANGES . . ERUPTIONS THAT APPEARED AS FORTIFICATIONS AGAINST AN UNKNOWN ENEMY . . GREAT CANALS WITHOUT WATER ALL COULD NOW BE SEEN AT CLOSE RANGE.

ACCORDING TO ONE ASTRONOMER SOME OF THESE CRATERS WERE DUG BY MAN
DUG FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE HOT RAYS OF THE SUN REMEMBER, A DAY ON THE MOON IS EQUAL TO FIFTEEN DAYS ON EARTH
LOOK! CULTIVATED FIELD!
YOUR FIELDS LOOK MORE LIKE THE BEDS OF DRIED RIVERS
I HOPE WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF YOUR SPECULATION!
PERHAPS TRUE VEGETATION, TREES, FIELDS AND SHRUBBERIES MAY BE FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GREAT RAVINES

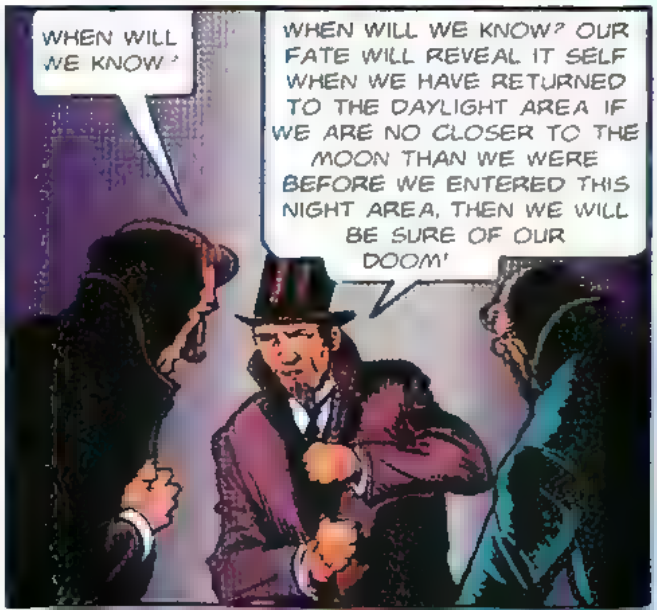

WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE MOON AREA WHICH IS BATHED IN SHADOWS
THE NIGHT WHICH LASTS FIFTEEN EARTH DAYS!
THE TEMPER ATURE IS DROPPING!

KEEP THE GAS LOW OUR SUPPLY IS LIMITED. WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO SEE IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO OUR ARRIVAL
OUR PRESENT SPEED SHOULD SUFFICE TO CARRY US INTO THE DAYLIGHT AREAS. MEANWHILE, THE HEAT OF THE GAS WILL HELP RELIEVE THE ACHING COLD WHICH IS BEGINNING TO SEIZE US!

DEATH BY FREEZING HAS BEEN MY GREATEST FEAR.
BE PATIENT WE WILL SOON FIND LIGHT AND A SAFE LANDING


MOVING INTO THE AREA OF DAYLIGHT IS NOT ENOUGH. WE MUST MOVE DOWNWARD! IF WE FAIL TO LOSE ALTITUDE, AND REMAIN SUSPENDED, WE WILL LIVE OUT OUR BRIEF TIME BEFORE DEATH CIRCLING THE MOON IN THE MANNER OF A MINOR SATELLITE!

IF BARBICANE'S THEORY BECAME FACT! THE SHELL WOULD CIRCLE THE MOON FOR ALL TIME. IT WOULD NEVER COME ANY CLOSER, NEVER TRAVEL ANY FARTHER


WHEN WILL WE KNOW?
WHEN WILL WE KNOW? OUR FATE WILL REVEAL IT SELF WHEN WE HAVE RETURNED TO THE DAYLIGHT AREA. IF WE ARE NO CLOSER TO THE MOON THAN WE WERE BEFORE WE ENTERED THIS NIGHT AREA, THEN WE WILL BE SURE OF OUR DOOM!

THREE HOURS LATER...
CAN IT BE THAT WE ARE EMERGING INTO THE DAYLIGHT OF THE MOON?
WILL WE LAND?
I AM TAKING A READING ON MY NAVIGATION INSTRUMENT. ONE MOMENT, AND I CAN TELL YOU WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LOSE ALTITUDE AND DRIFT MOON-WARD!
BARBICANE TURNED AND PRONOUNCED THEIR FATE...
I REGRET TO SAY THAT WE ARE DOOMED TO CIRCLE THE MOON AT THIS ALTITUDE UNTIL DEATH OVERTAKES US AND OUR SHELL DISINTIGRATES AND FLOATS AWAY! WE LACK THE POWER TO SAVE OURSELVES!
FOR A MOMENT, THE SPACE TRAVELLERS WERE STUNNED. THEN...
WHAT ABOUT OUR ROCKETS
THE ROCKETS WERE INSTALLED TO BREAK OUR FALL WHEN WE LANDED ON THE MOON
ROCKETS HAVE POWER, THAT IS A FACT! PERHAPS WE CAN USE THAT POWER TO BREAK OUT OF THIS CONFOUNDED CIRCLE WE ARE TRAVELLING.
THEN WE WOULD BE FREE TO LAND ON THE MOON. IT MIGHT BE A ROUGH LANDING, BUT ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS
MY SWEET, DEAR ROCKETS! BE SO KIND AS TO EXPLODE AND DELIVER US TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON!
STRIKE THE MATCH!

ROCKETS AWAY!
THE POWERFUL ROCKETS CAUSED THE SHELL TO BREAK FREE FROM THE CIRCULAR SPACE PATH AROUND THE MOON. THE TRAVELERS WERE SET FREE!
WAIT A MOMENT! I FEAR WE MAY NOT BE HEADING FOR THE MOON!
WE ARE FALLING BACK TO EARTH!
MAY WE MEET ON THE MOON
GOOD LUCK, MY DEAR FRIENDS!

IN THE EARTH FAR BELOW, THE USS "SUSQUEHANNA" WAS ON A MISSION TO RECORD THE DEPTHS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN BETWEEN HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO, TO GUIDE THE LAYING OF THE FIRST TELEGRAPH CABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO HAWAII.
HAS THE SOUNDING LINE REACHED BOTTOM YET LIEUTENANT?
THE LAST READING WAS 3,508 FATHOMS DOWN, SIR. BOTTOM NOT REACHED
THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE OF THE VERY DEEPEST AREAS IN THE ENTIRE PACIFIC OCEAN!
IT OCCURS TO ME THAT LIFE SO FAR DOWN IN THE SEA MUST BE AS STRANGE AS LIFE HIGH ABOVE ON THE MOON!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SIR, I WONDER HOW THAT BRAVE TRIO FROM THE BALTIMORE GUN CLUB ARE MAKING OUT IN THEIR TRIP TO THE MOON?
LOOK OUT ABOVE!

BARBICANE'S SHELL HIT THE WATER WITH A TREMENDOUS SPLASH AND IMMEDIATELY SANK BENEATH THE WAVES.

YOUR MOON TRAVELLERS HAVE LANDED ON THE EARTH!

RATHER, IN THE WATER, SIR.

A LOWERED, BUT SEVERAL HOURS LATER. .

NO SIGN OF THE MOON TRAVELLERS, SIR.

WE'LL STAND BY 'TIL DAYBREAK, AND WATCH FOR WRECKAGE!

LET US THROW OUT A BUOY MARKER, SIR. THEN, FAILING TO FIND ANY SIGN IN THE MORNING, WE CAN STEAM POST-HASTE TO SAN FRANCISCO, NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS RETURN WITH A SEARCH FLEET.

VERY GOOD IDEA, LIEUTENANT.

I WILL ALERT THE MEN TO PREPARE FOR A SPEEDY RETURN TO SAN FRANCISCO. MEANWHILE, IF OUR FRIENDS HAVE SURVIVED THE SHOCK OF FALLING FROM THE MOON, I'M SURE THEIR OXYGEN-MAKING EQUIPMENT WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM DROWNING.

LACKING WIRELESS TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT, THE U.S.S. "SUSQUEHANNA" PUT ABOUT FOR SAN FRANCISCO. THE LONELY BUOY REMAINED BEHIND, MARKING THE SPOT WHERE THE SHELL HAD FALLEN INTO THE SEA...

UNDER THE SEA, THE SHELL SWIRLED AIMLESSLY WITHOUT A RUDDER. THE GREAT PROJECTILE WAS A PRISONER OF THE WATER, EVEN AS IT HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF THE FORCES OF SPACE!

AT THE NAVAL BASE AT SAN FRANCISCO...

WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

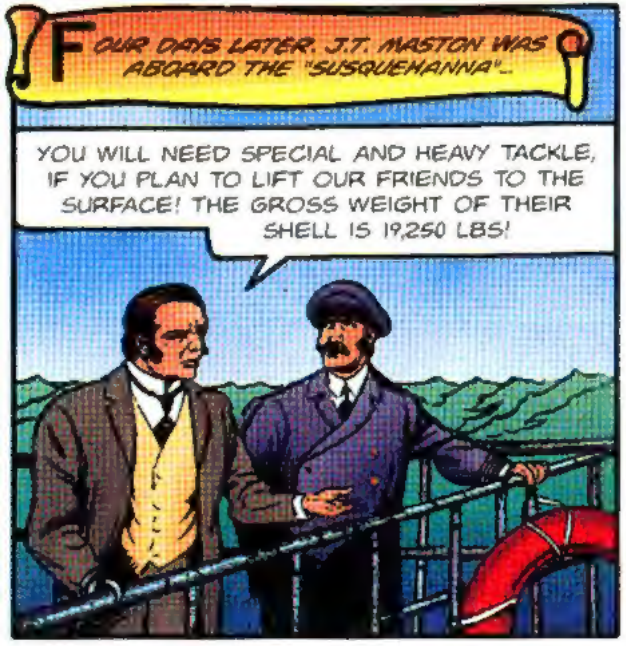
IT SEEMS THE 'SUSQUEHANNA' HAS MET UP WITH THREE MEN WHO WERE LAST SEEN ON THEIR WAY TO THE MOON!

THE STRANGE STORY WAS THEN TOLD TO THE ADMIRAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

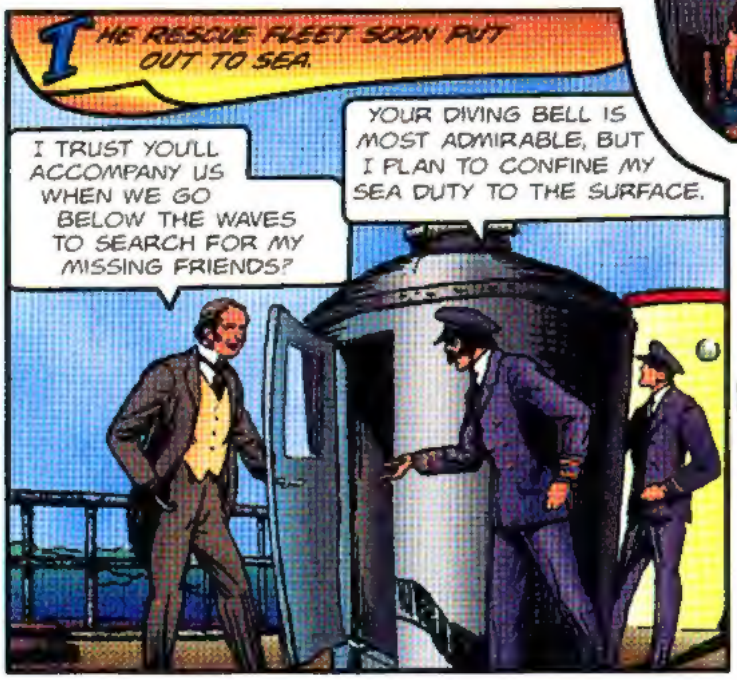
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORT, GENTLEMEN. I WILL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR AT THE POLYGON AT ONCE. THE POLYGON WILL NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT. ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT COULD YOU NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GUN CLUB IN BALTIMORE?

AN EXCELLENT IDEA. I DARESAY, IF ANYBODY CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO FISH THAT CONFOUNDED SHELL OUT OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GUN CLUB

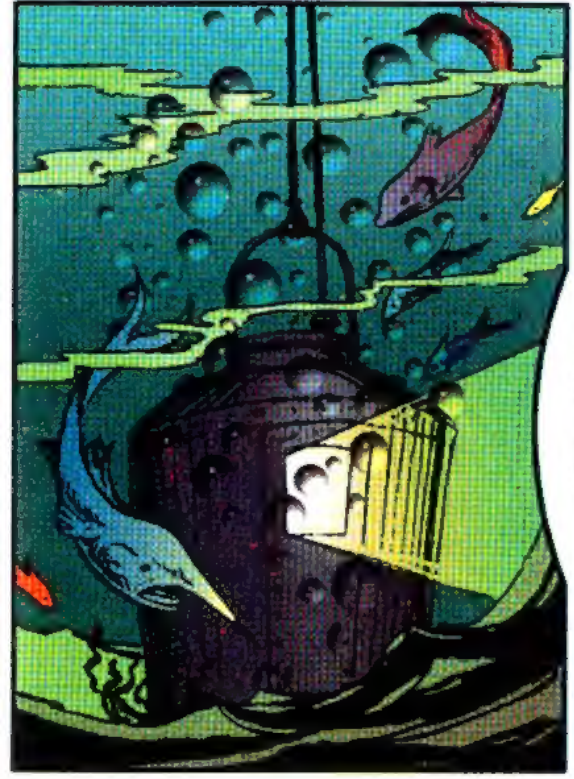

FOUR DAYS LATER, J.T. MASTON WAS ABOARD THE "SUSQUEHANNA"...
YOU WILL NEED SPECIAL AND HEAVY TACKLE, IF YOU PLAN TO LIFT OUR FRIENDS TO THE SURFACE! THE GROSS WEIGHT OF THEIR SHELL IS 19,250 LBS!

EQUIPMENT WAS QUICKLY ACQUIRED AND RUSHED ABOARD...
I HOPE MY FRIENDS ARE STILL ALIVE! WHAT STORIES THEY WILL HAVE TO TELL!


THE RESCUE FLEET SOON PUT OUT TO SEA.
I TRUST YOU'LL ACCOMPANY US WHEN WE GO BELOW THE WAVES TO SEARCH FOR MY MISSING FRIENDS?
YOUR DIVING BELL IS MOST ADMIRABLE, BUT I PLAN TO CONFINE MY SEA DUTY TO THE SURFACE.

FOUR DAYS LATER, THEY WERE AT THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE SHELL HAD GONE DOWN...
I WILL GO BELOW AND SEARCH FROM MY DIVING CHAMBER.

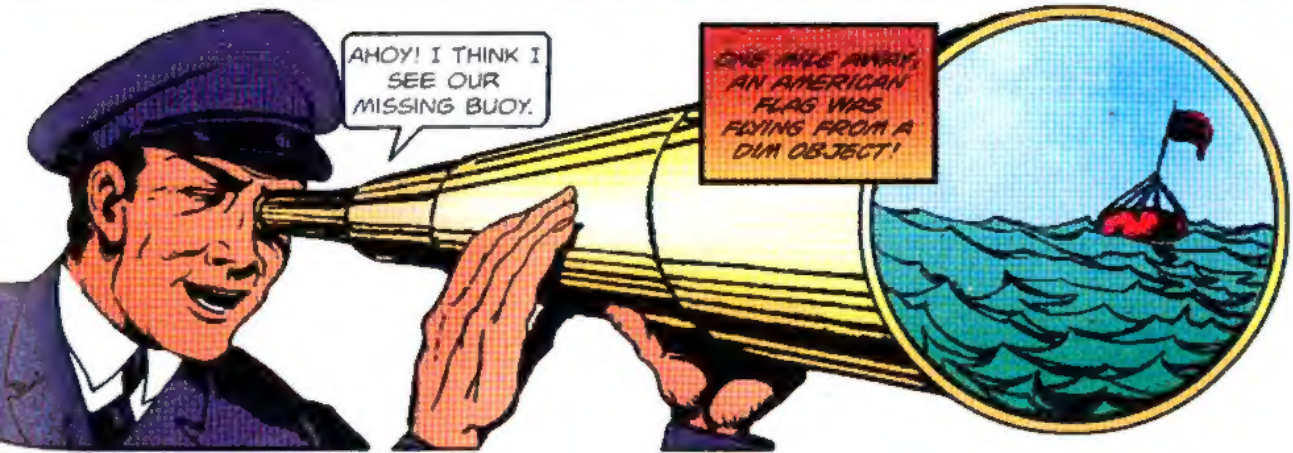
GOOD LUCK MR. MASTON! I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR FRIENDS.



FIVE HOURS LATER...
SHALL WE RETURN TO THE SURFACE, MR. MASTON?
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SIGN OF BARBICANE AND THE OTHERS ANYWHERE!

NO LUCK, SIR!
HOW UNFORTUNIATE. NOW WE MUST CONDUCT A SURFACE SEARCH.

FIVE DAYS LATER...
NOT A SIGN! I'M AFRAID WE MUST PUT BACK TO FRISCO!


AHOY! I THINK I SEE OUR MISSING BUOY.
ONE MILE AWAY, AN AMERICAN FLAG WAS FLYING FROM A DIM OBJECT!

A BOAT WAS PUT TO SEA.
EUREKA! YONDER FLOATS THE GUN CLUB SHELL!
AS MASTON OPENED THE PORT, HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BUT OF COURSE! WE ARE ENJOYING A QUIET GAME OF CHESS.
AS THE BOAT APPROACHED, AN OMINOUS SILENCE HUNG OVER THE SHELL.
NO SIGN OF LIFE! I HOPE ALL IS WELL!
WERE YOU AFRAID?
WHEN A MAN IS NEARLY DOOMED TO A LIFETIME OF CIRCLING THE MOON, THEN SURVIVES A PLUNGE OF 200,000 ODD MILES INTO THE PACIFIC... HE LEARNS NOT TO BE AFRAID.
THE END.

For as long as Man has looked to the heavens, the Moon has beckoned him, just out of reach. Now a band of dedicated engineers build the largest gun on Earth and train its sights heavenward; brave men will ride the "bullet" all the way to the Moon. But will the flight be jeopardized by the feud of two bitter rivals? Every obstacle can be overcome—if man can overcome his own worst impulses! *From The Earth to the Moon* is Jule Verne's prophetic vision of man's drive to conquer the solar system!

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